

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Military and Air Activity in the
Khaskovo-Plovdiv Area

DATE DISTR. 29 January 1957

NO. PAGES 1

REQUIREMENT
NO.

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DATE OF
INFO.PLACE &
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REFERENCES

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Attached is a five-page report of observations made of military and air

activity in the Khaskovo-Plovdiv area

including
~~along~~~~four~~ four sketches and a drawing of Krumovo Airfield.

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

1. Military and Air Observations in Khaskovo-Plovdiv Area.
2. Tanks in Sofia

DATE DISTR.

NO. OF PAGES 5

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REFERENCE:

DATE TYPED: 9 Jan. 1957

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Military Observations in Khaskovo Area

1. [redacted] military activity performed by 300 soldiers in the training area between the fifth and first kilometer mark outside Khaskovo, toward Plovdiv;

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a. 50 signal corps soldiers and approximately 15 soldiers of the engineer corps were being trained with binoculars and a range finder.

b. One partly armored car [redacted] was towing an antitank gun.

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c. 200 soldiers carrying rifles with bayonets were climbing a hill on an exercise.

d. On the same hill, 1,000-1,500 meters from Khaskovo was a radar apparatus encircled by four cars; see sketch A on page 3.

2. [redacted] Soviets in cars drive through this training area outside Khaskovo during the night. On 19 December 1956, [redacted] the same activities in the training area outside Khaskovo, except that there were fewer soldiers.

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3. [redacted] 300 soldiers on field maneuvers two kilometers outside Kharmanli, toward Khaskovo. These soldiers were in trenches and wearing gas masks; 80 to 100 cars, not in use but mounted on racks, were at the entrance to the barracks beneath shelters.

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4. On the Svilengrad side of Lyubimets there were ten groups of 50 men in each observing a camouflage exercise performed by 40 soldiers wearing uniforms of yellow, green and brown, which covered the legs and head. The latter were believed to be a Frontier Troop unit, and they were performing before the barracks. In the same place [redacted]

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page 2
dated

approximately 80 soldiers, divided into four groups of 20 men in each, standing around four machineguns.

5. [redacted] underground ammunition dumps and one radar apparatus on a hill to the right of the road approaching Svilengrad from Lyubimets, approximately 5-6 kilometers outside Svilengrad. See sketch B on page 4 for a drawing of this radar apparatus.

Air Observations in Plovdiv Area

6. [redacted] ten jet planes, divided into two groups of five planes in each, at Graf Ignatievo airfield on 15 December 1956. See sketch D on page 5 for drawings of these planes which were believed to be MIG-17.¹ At the rear of this field, [redacted] seven other, non-jet, planes on the same date.
7. At Trud outside Graf Ignatievo [redacted] a radar apparatus on 15 December, which is shown on sketch C on page 4.

8. On 13 and 14 December 1956 [redacted] many planes over Krumovo airfield. [redacted] 18 planes were seen on the commercial section of the airport. On 14 December, 8 single-engine, dark gray, propeller planes with flat wings slightly raised, high direction rudder, and sharp red-colored nose, were flying above the Krumovo airport, which has hangar capacity for 11 planes. From 1125 to 1135 hours, three planes departed this field and another five departed from 1205 to 1215 hours. See sketch on page 5 for the location of this field.

Tanks in Sofia

9. On 8 December 1956, [redacted] 15 tanks accompanied by a jeep towing a truck carrying 15 soldiers moving along Element Gottwald street in Sofia. These were large tanks, each with six caterpillar wheels, approximately 40 centimeters high, 70-80 centimeter inclination, power wheel in the rear, approximately two meters wide, 3 1/2 meters long and two meters high, including the turret, and with a 2-meter gun barrel.

1. Comment: According to pictures of MIG-17s, these planes appear to be similar.

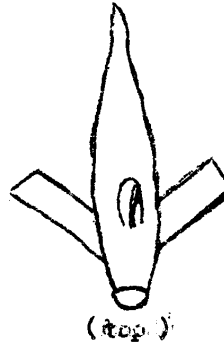
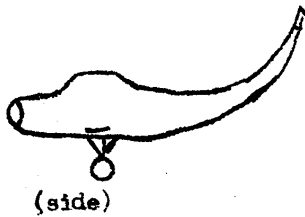
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Page 3
Sketch D

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APPENDIX

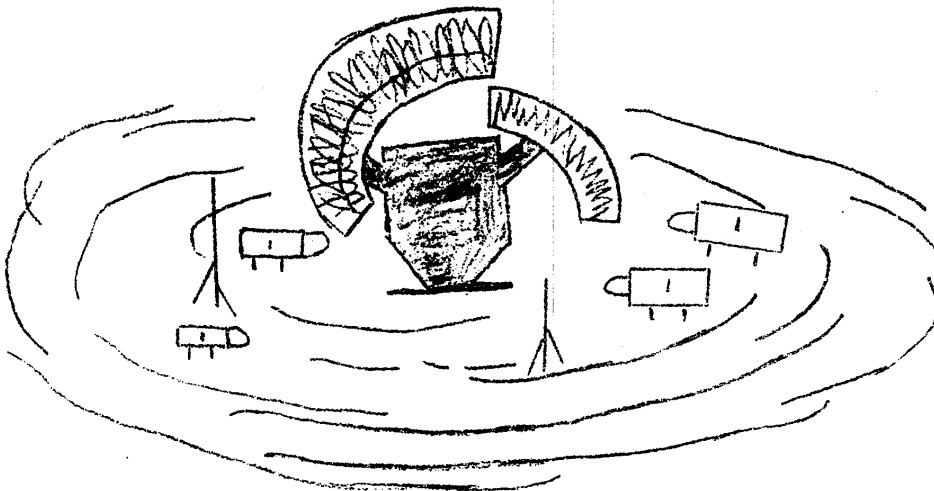
SKETCH D



Jet planes: Engine in center; tail curving sharply upwards with elevation rudders leaning downwards; wings curving slightly upwards and slightly toward rear; reserve gas tanks under wings; color between yellow and pink.

Sketch A

SKETCH A



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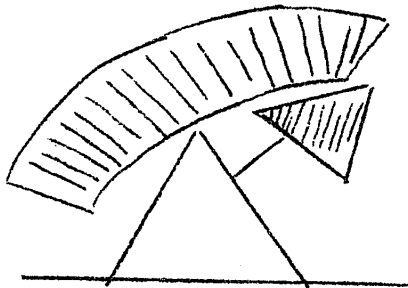


SKETCH C

Page 4

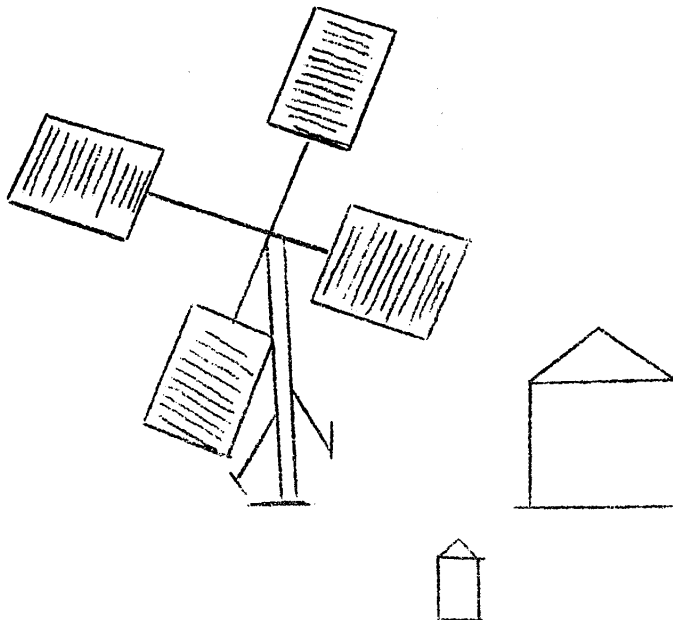
Sketch C

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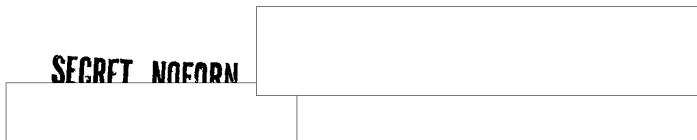


SKETCH B

Sketch B



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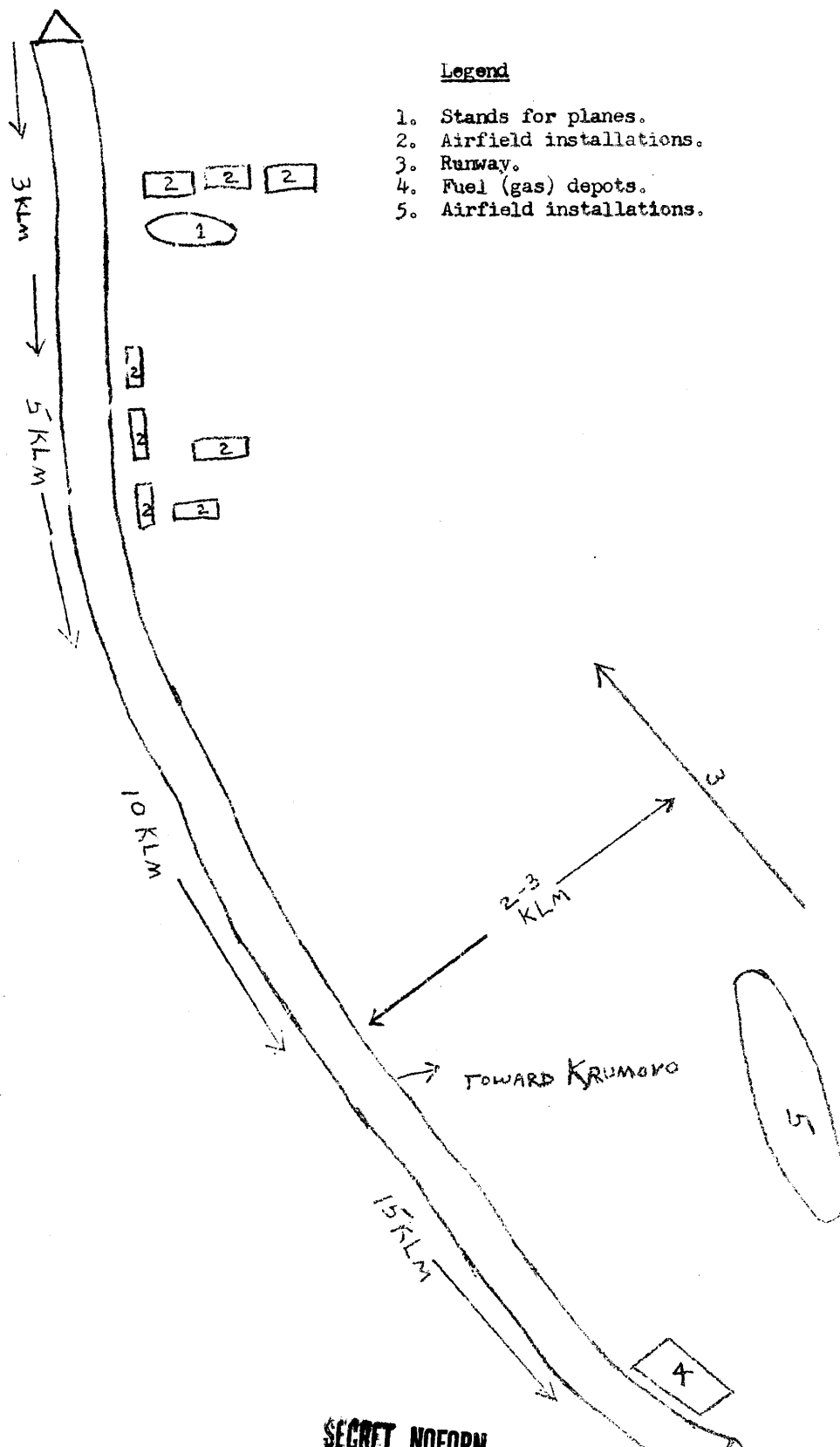
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